



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District



Oregon Department of
State Lands

Joint Public Notice Notice of Proposed Rogue Valley Mitigation Bank, Jackson County, Oregon

Issue Date: June 9, 2008

Closing Date: July 9, 2008

Corps File Number: NWP-2008-327

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps) and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) are considering a proposal to establish a 264-acre wetland mitigation bank. The proposed bank site is located between Reese Creek Road and Crater Lake Highway, north of Eagle Point, Jackson County, Oregon (Figure 1). The bank site is located in Township 35 South, Range 01 West, Sections 26 and 27. The Bank Sponsor, Wildlands, Inc., proposes to conduct mitigation both by protecting and managing existing high quality vernal pool wetlands, restoring and managing irrigated pasture wetlands, and enhancing 3 acres of perennial marsh. Upland areas among the vernal pools would also be protected and managed to sustain these wetlands and the rare species that they support. A Prospectus describing the proposed bank has been received from the bank sponsor and is now available for public review.

This wetland mitigation bank is proposed by the bank sponsors primarily as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for projects which may be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and by the DSL in implementing the provisions of Oregon's Removal-Fill Law (ORS 196.800 - 196.990) and according to Rules for Issuance and Enforcement of Removal and Fill Permits (OAR 141-85-005 to OAR 141-85-660), and OAR 141-85-400 to OAR 141-85-445, Administrative Rules for Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Banking. The bank sponsors would sell wetland credits to various parties to meet their obligations under the "no net loss of wetlands" policies of these federal and state regulations.

In addition, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may choose to recognize this Bank as a Conservation Bank. If that occurs, then certain permit applicants might be authorized to use bank credits to offset impacts to federally listed species under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. The rare species that could benefit include the Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (Threatened), Large-flowered woolly meadowfoam (Endangered), and Cook's Desert Parsley (Endangered). The bank site is located within USFWS designated Critical Habitat for the vernal pool fairy shrimp.

The proposed bank will generate wetland credits by ensuring permanent protection and management of 154 acres of a complex of existing high quality vernal pool wetlands and their adjacent uplands to sustain the federally listed species habitat, including 6 acres of topographic restoration, and by restoring a 45 acre leveled, irrigated pasture to typical vernal pool wetland topography, vegetation, and other functions, and similarly providing perpetuity protection and management. The bank would be established in phases.

The proposed service area, which is the area within which the mitigation credits generated by the bank may be used, consists of the Middle Rogue 4th Field Hydrologic Unit 17100308 and Upper Rogue 17100307 watersheds (Figure 2). This service area includes the urbanizing areas of Medford, White City, Central Point, Eagle Point, Shady Cove, Ashland, and Grants Pass, as well as smaller communities within this watershed. This service area coincides with the Rogue Valley Vernal Pool Recovery Unit.

Comments received in response to this Notice will be provided to the bank sponsor and to the federal, state and local agencies represented on the Interagency Review Team. This team will work with the bank sponsors to create a detailed bank Instrument and legal agreement that will specify the ecological goals of the project, grading and planting plans, monitoring, maintenance, and the number and schedule of wetland credits to be made available when performance criteria have been met.

The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for this bank, is available for inspection at the Corps and the DSL at the addresses given below. It has been posted along with Jackson County Removal-Fill permit applications on the DSL website: www.statelandsonline.com/. Comments on this proposed mitigation bank may be submitted to either the Corps or the DSL online or at the addresses below. Comments should be received no later than July 9, 2008.

Please provide comments to:

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OR Dana Field
Oregon Department of State Lands
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Salem, OR 97301-1279

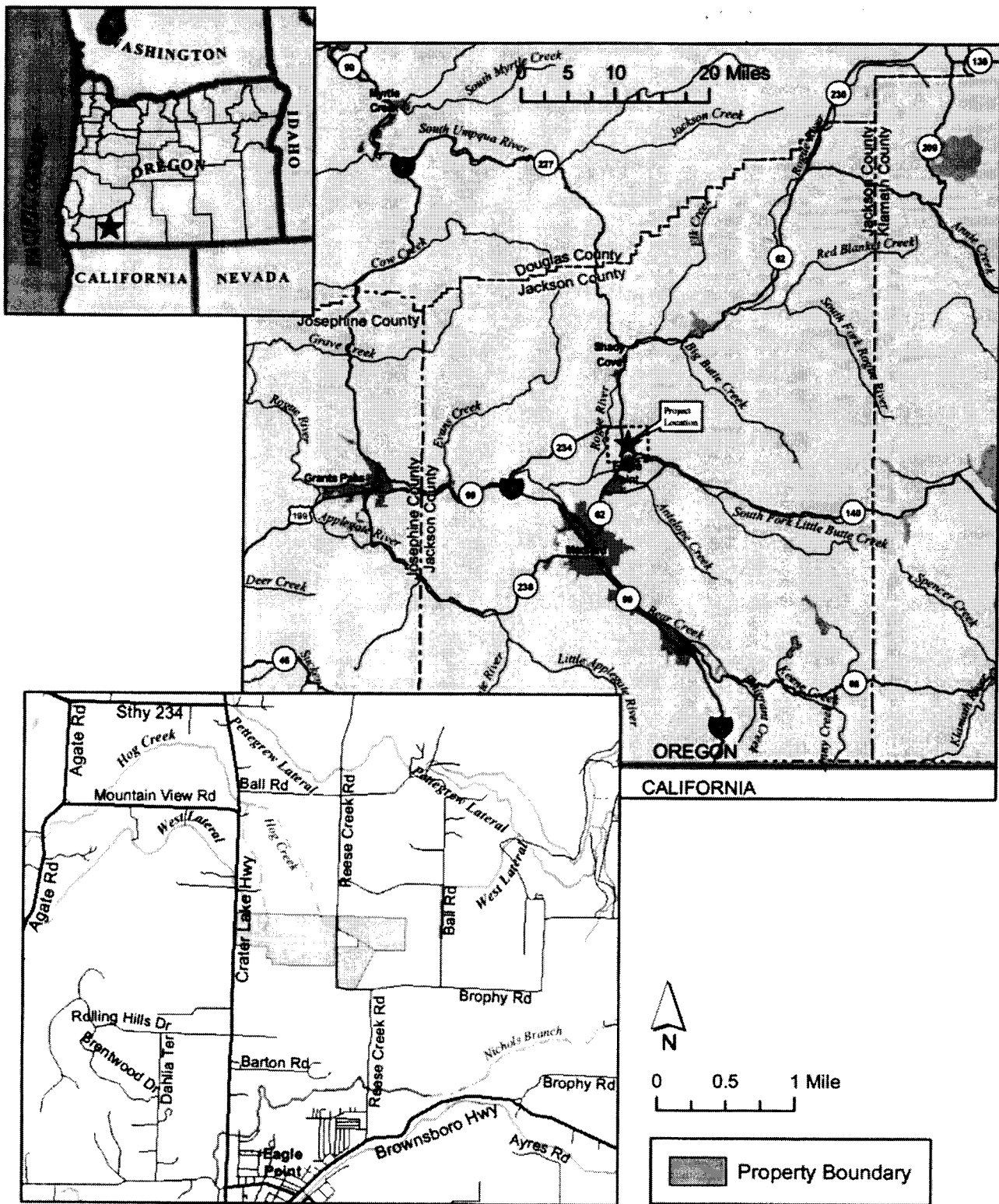


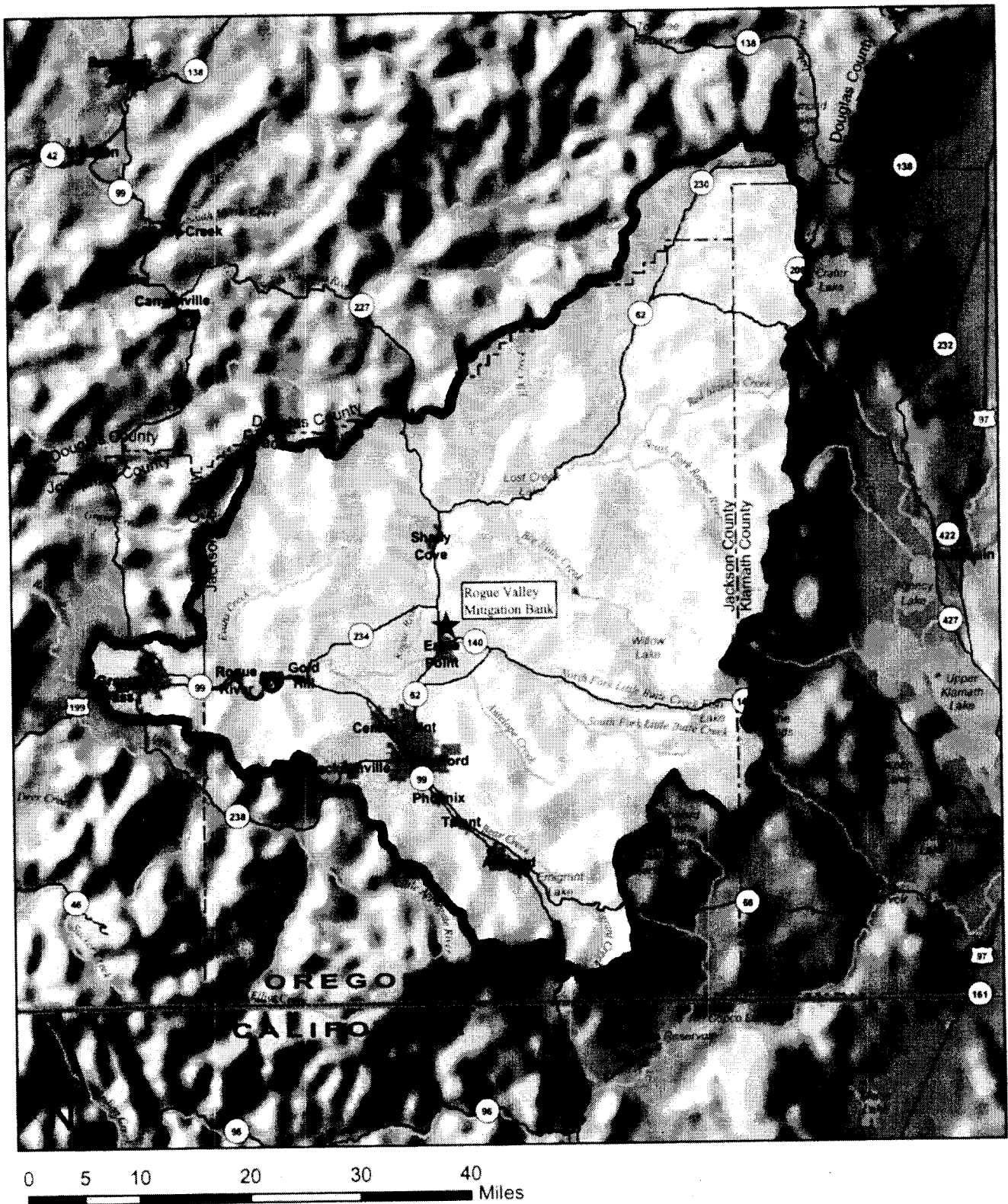
Figure 1

Regional Vicinity



Wildlands, Inc.
Rogue Valley Mitigation Bank
Prospectus

Figure 1



Wildlands, Inc.
Rogue Valley Mitigation Bank
Prospectus

Figure 12
Service Area (Rogue Recovery Unit)

Figure 2